



BHULLAR WINS MACAO OPEN

Indian golfer Gaganjeet Bhullar won the Macao Open trophy for the second time in his career

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MIF, PLPEX CONCLUDE

During the three-day events, a total of 67 agreements were signed, covering many economic sectors

P7



PROPAGANDA FACES STIFF COMPETITION

Chinese people are increasingly ignoring propaganda and are more interested in movie stars

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FOUNDER & PUBLISHER Kowie Geldenhuys EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

WORLD BRIEFS



EGYPT's president vowed yesterday to press ahead with the country's war against terrorism, secure its borders and hunt down militants. The remarks came after authorities officially announced that at least 16 policemen were killed in a brazen ambush by militants southwest of Cairo. Security officials separately reported that the death toll reached 54, making it one of the worst attacks against Egypt's police in years. More on p14

PHILIPPINES Troops yesterday were battling a final group of about 30 pro-Islamic State group militants who were surrounded in one building with all their hostages gone as a nearly five-month siege neared its end in Marawi city.

MALAYSIA A landslide at a construction site in northern Malaysia on Saturday killed three foreign workers, with rescuers searching for 11 others feared trapped in the mud and rubble, officials said.

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China:
Building demand

JAPAN

Abe heads to landslide election win



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RENATO MARQUES



Lusofonia Festival records big spike in attendance this year

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Crowds pictured yesterday at the festival

Lusofonia Festival records big spike in attendance

Renato Marques

THE 20th anniversary edition of the Festival that joins together China and Portuguese-speaking countries came to a close yesterday evening.

After four days of events and performances on and off stage, the conclusion was unanimous among several of the regular faces: this year's festival had attracted more people.

It was in fact easy to see that the area around the Taipa Houses-Museum had become too small for the very numerous visitors that filled streets populated by associations displaying and selling traditional goods from each country. They were mostly handicrafts and food and beverages vendors, but not only.

As explained to the Times, Helena Coelho, responsible for the East Timor stall said, "We decided to bring a piece of the culture [of East Timor] and so we brought musical culture and literature both in paper and on CDs," works from Maestro Simão Barreto that revived some of the traditional Timorese songs.

Besides music and poetry, the East Timor stall features handicraft pieces created by the artisan, who in turn demonstrated to how to do the Timorese "Tais" - a form of traditional weaving created by the women of East Timor.

We have many more people.

MARIA AMÉLIA ANTÓNIO
CASA DE PORTUGAL

Coelho said the traditional clothes were "much requested in previous editions," and so the association brought them along this time.

The sales are also going well, she said, "especially on the small pieces such as hairbands, pockets and bags. Some are already sold out. The big clothes are a bit expensive, since it is a very time-consuming and difficult handmade activity [to make them], and people refrain themselves a bit to buy them."

At the Brazil stall, one of the most notable over the last 20 years, it was remarked that such

a high number of people had visited that that the association had to restock on the ingredients for the famous drink "caipirinha."

"Brigadeiros" and other typical sweets were also selling well in a stand that aimed to highlight Brazilian poetry. Titled "Anthology of Brazilian Poetry", the stand included a "poetry tree" where poetry messages were hung on display.

Maria Amelia Antonio, president of the Portuguese Association "Casa de Portugal" (CPM), agreed with the assessment of increased visitation this year. "We have many more people and right from 2 p.m. onwards," she said, noting that this had been possible because of an increase in the number of Chinese attendees. "That was always the goal," she explained.

Marissa Lam, from Macau, said that she came to the festival to support her boyfriend, who was one of the performers on stage. But while at the festival, she has not missed the opportunity to try the food and drink; the "Caipirinha" and the "Sangria" are a must, she said, as well as some typical Portuguese snacks.

A 27-year-old Indonesian non-resident worker, who identified herself only as Windy, said that she was visiting the festival for the first time. Windy and her friend "just saw it from the garden when walking there and came to see," adding that she was enjoying it, "especially the music and dancing." But Windy said that she had not tried the food on account of it being too expensive.

If the human congestion on Avenida da Praia Grande had

slowed the pace of passersby, the area around the amphitheater was even busier, as several groups had taken to the stage with a variety of performances involving music and dance.

In one of the most applauded acts, local group Macau Art Fusion paired with traditional Portuguese songs and dance troupe "Macau no Coração" to present an act that delves deep into the roots of both the Portuguese and Macau people.

Laura Nyogery, the leader of the troupe, said: "We pick up the theme from fishing and fishermen and the sea, and relate it to the history of Portugal. [We] also address the [ideas] of discovery and adventure and we cross this with the poetry of Zeca Afonso, merging it into several art forms." She explained that the purpose is to highlight feelings such as "hope or missing someone," using metaphors of the lives of fishermen, shown through the choreography, music, wardrobe and make-up.

Nyogery noted the importance of Lusofonia Festival for the group as, "it's a very anticipated event by the students because it has an audience that is very familiar and friendly. They all have parents or school friends, neighbors and others in the audience and it's important for them to be able to share what they have been learning," she said. "Every time we have a performance like this they grow a lot, [...] it's fabulous to realize their development."

Nyogery remarked that this development is clear and warming.

"We see students that do not know any Portuguese and after just a few weeks [or months] are here singing Portuguese songs with a real notion of the feelings involved. We explain to them exactly what those words mean so they can feel and translate that on stage," she concluded.



Timorese handicraft artist

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A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

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Indian golfer Bhullar wins Macao Open

INDIAN golfer Gaganjeet Bhullar won the Macao Open trophy for the second time in his career after closing with a three-under-par 68 to complete a wire-to-wire victory yesterday.

The 29-year-old Bhullar fired seven birdies against two bogeys and a double-bogey, winning by three shots with a 13-under-par 271 total for his eighth Asian Tour victory at the Macau Golf and Country Club.

Bhullar took home a winner's prize purse of USD90,000. He is the third player after Australia's Scott Hend (2013 and 2015) and China's Zhang Lian-Wei (2001-2002) to win the event twice since the tournament's inauguration in 1998.

The 2017 Macao Open champion remarked that playing on the course was challenging due to the region's past weather conditions.

"I hit the ball well and made my putts. It was a tough start to the day but the last four days have been really hard," said Bhullar, who is ranked 237th in the world.

"This is probably the only tour-

namment where I've played in such windy conditions in all four rounds."

This is probably the only tournament where I've played in such windy conditions in all four rounds.

GAGANJEET BHULLAR

For now, Bhullar said that his next goal is to win a co-sanctioned event with the European Tour. He will have an opportunity to be in the spotlight during the IBS Hong Kong Open in November.

"Every time you win wire-to-wire on the Asian Tour, you learn a lot. I want to grow as a player and you

learn so much from winning and even losing," he said.

"I'm glad that this is my eighth Asian Tour title and I've got so many more events to play on the Asian Tour."

Meanwhile Filipino ace Angelo Que battled to a 69 to share second place with Ajeetesh Sandhu of India, who posted a 70, at the USD500,000 Asian Tour event.

Que made two birdies but regretted that he could have made more.

Commenting on the tournament, the Filipino professional golfer was satisfied with his result.

"It was still a good week for me. Finishing second is a good result. The conditions were the same but I think the pressure of trying to win gets to you [...] I've always enjoyed playing here so I'm glad I came back here after missing this event for two years," said Que.

While Sandhu is pleased with his compatriot's win, he recalled that despite his game starting off well, he missed a few chances in the middle of the round, which threw him off.

Nevertheless, Sandhu said he



Gaganjeet Bhullar

is content with the tournament's overall result, adding that he will continue to play well in future tournaments.

"It has been a good week and it was especially nice to play in the last group in the last two days. It was tense but I'm happy with the way it went," Sandhu said.

Meanwhile, Taiwan's Hung Chien-yao took fourth place following a 72 for a 276 total.

India's Rashid Khan returned with the day's low round of 64 to grab a share of fifth place on a 278

total alongside American Johannes Veerman, who closed with a 70 in the Macao showpiece.

China's Lin Yuxin, the only amateur to make the halfway cut, produced the shot of the day when his five-iron from 240 yards found the bottom of the cup for a magical albatross on the par-five 18th hole.

This was the 24th albatross on the Asian Tour and a second at the Macao Open.

It was also the first albatross scored by an amateur on the Asian Tour. **LV**

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Davis Fong acknowledges role in gaming license renewal

Daniel Beitler

NEWLY appointed lawmaker Davis Fong has acknowledged that he is likely to play a key advisory role in the upcoming gaming concessionaire negotiations.

Speaking on the sidelines of the Sands China Responsible Gaming Team Training Program last week, Fong said that Lionel Leong, the Secretary for Economy and Finance, has already proposed several options to the government concerning possible terms for the new licenses.

The gaming scholar said he would offer his advice and expertise on whichever approach is pursued.

"It's up to the government – and the political climate at the time – to choose which option to adopt," he said.

"Whatever the government adopts, I will provide my expertise and try my best to give my scientific view based on my research [background]."

A scholar in commercial gaming and integrated resort management, Fong currently heads the

University of Macau's Institute for the Study of Commercial Gaming.

Whatever the government adopts, I will provide my expertise and try my best to give my scientific view based on my research.

DAVIS FONG

Last month, he became one of seven lawmakers appointed to the Legislative Assembly by the city's Chief Executive, Chui Sai On, to act as the collective voice of the executive within the legislative branch of government.

The latest legislative term will



Davis Fong

end in 2021, halfway through the expiry period for the licenses granted to the three concessionaires and three sub-concessionaires. MGM and SJM's licenses will expire in 2020, while those of Sands, Galaxy, Wynn and Melco Resorts will last until 2022.

At a minimum, a blueprint for the new license terms will be established by the end of this legislative term.

"2020 is quite a critical year for Macau, so I am expecting the government will initiate some ac-

tions to open the bid," said Fong.

The new lawmaker is not the only member of the Legislative Assembly with a role to play in the discussion. Lawmakers Angela Leong and Zheng Anting also represent significant gaming interests in the legislature and will inevitably exert influence over the license renewal terms.

The casino industry is responsible for an estimated 85 percent of the city's GDP and the employment of tens of thousands of residents, making it the most

important element in Macau's socio-economic fabric.

However, the terms and details of the license negotiations remain as speculation.

Analysts suspect that political considerations will be made with respect to the decision. These considerations may include support for MSAR government-led initiatives and the scope of gaming operators' contribution to the city's economic diversification and development as a world center for tourism and leisure.

The licenses will not renew automatically in 2020 and 2022, but they can be extended for a maximum of five years, if a decision from the government has not been reached. After that, a new public tender must be launched.

However, lawmakers and the government may still be a year or two away from even the commencement of formal negotiations.

In the more immediate term, Davis Fong suspects that the effectiveness of the city's disaster response infrastructure is a more pressing item on lawmakers' agenda.

"After the typhoon, local citizens have high expectations over how to improve the local disaster response infrastructure. I am waiting for the policy address released by the government," he said, adding that he expects Typhoon Hato and its related issues to dominate the address.

MSAR's 2018 budget to increase

THE Secretary for Economy and Finance Lionel Leong announced last week that the SAR's budget will increase next year. Although he did not disclose any figures, he assured that the surplus would be "reasonable."

The official said that they are still waiting to receive further updates from the public services, which are updating the expenses relating to works and acquisition of new equipment.

The proposal will be presented to the Legislative Assembly in November and Leong expects an increase in both the city's revenue and expenditure.

According to Leong, Typhoon Hato is a significant contributor to the surge in next year's fiscal budget, as the government also needs human resources for the civil service.

"Public services should meet the society's requirements [and so] human resources and other sectors need improvement," the official told the press



Lionel Leong

on the sidelines of a ceremony.

"Some entities or associations' facilities recorded damages from Hato, and it needed us to increase the budget," he added.

Leong also assured that social support and benefits will be "well maintained."

When questioned about the speed of the approval of the request to transfer gaming tables to Cham Meng Kam's new casino – Red Dragon, operating under the SJM license –

the official explained the sequence of events. He stated that he and Chief Executive Chui Sai On had signed the approval documents after the director of the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau, Paulo Martins Chan, told reporters that the application was still under review. Chan's comments were made only a few hours before the signing and caused some confusion among members of the public.

Revenue in communications sector plummets 18.7 percent

ACCORDING to the latest data released by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC), a total of 3,040 establishments were operating in the Transport, Storage and Communications sectors in 2016, a year-on-year increase of 251, or 9 percent. At the same time, the number of people engaged in the sectors last year rose by 4.6 percent to 20,244, with employees accounting for 80.2 percent.

The sectors' revenue and expenditure amounted to a combined MOP27.83 billion and MOP22 billion respectively, down by 3 percent and 4.9 percent year-on-year.

The sharp drop in both sectors' revenue was driven by an 18.7 percent fall in the Communications sector.

In the Transport and Storage sector, the number of operating establishments increased by 242 year-on-year to 3,000, according to

DSEC, due to an increase in the number of taxis. The number of people engaged in the sector increased by 5.3 percent to 17,750.

Driven by the higher revenue from passenger transport (MOP8.9 billion, +9.9 percent) and rent of vehicles (MOP1.26 billion, +16.9 percent), the sector's revenue grew by 5.1 percent year-on-year to MOP19.9 billion.

Meanwhile, expenditure amounted to MOP16.62 billion, up by 3.3 percent year-on-year, driven by operating expenses (MOP8 billion, +2.2 percent) and compensation of employees (MOP3.69 billion, +12.6 percent).

For the Communications sector, a total of 40 establishments were operating last year, up by nine year-on-year, with the number of people engaged rising slightly by 0.2 percent to 2,494.

Revenue of the sector decreased by 18.7 per-

cent year-on-year to MOP7.93 billion, dragged by a 34.3 percent drop in revenue from the sales of goods (MOP3.4 billion).

At the same time, the sector's expenditure decreased by 23.5 percent year-on-year to MOP5.39 billion, incurred mainly through the purchase of goods and services (MOP3.57 billion, -33.7 percent), which more than offset the respective increases of 14.4 percent and 4.7 percent in operating expenses (MOP925 million) and compensation of employees (MOP900 million).

Gross Value Added of the Transport and Storage sector grew by 13.9 percent year-on-year to MOP6.97 billion, while that of the Communications sector decreased 11.7 percent year-on-year to MOP3.25 billion. Gross Value Added measures the sector's relative contribution to the economy as a whole.



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22nd MACAO INTERNATIONAL TRADE & INVESTMENT FAIR



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EXPOSIÇÃO DE PRODUTOS E SERVIÇOS DOS
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We would like to extend our profound thanks to the following people, organisations and participants in acknowledgement of their contribution and support in making the 22nd Macao International Trade & Investment Fair and 2017 Portuguese Speaking Countries Products and Services Exhibition (Macau) such enormous success.

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Plus sincere thanks to all Governmental Co-organisers, Partner Organisations, Co-ordinators, Official Entities from Macao SAR, Bank and Financial Partners, local and overseas Trade Associations and Delegations, Embassies and Consulates as well as the various mainland provinces and cities. We would also like to say a huge thank you to all of our advertisers, institutions and media that have worked with us throughout the 22nd MIF and 2017 PLPEX.

We wish everyone success in the future and look forward to seeing you all again next year for the 23rd MIF and 2018 PLPEX.

From the Organiser of the 22nd Macao International Trade and Investment Fair and 2017 Portuguese Speaking Countries Products and Services Exhibition (Macau)

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«Relatório das Linhas de Acção Governativa para o Ano Financeiro de 2018» do Governo da Região Administrativa Especial de Macau

Recolha de opiniões: 11 a 25 de Outubro de 2017

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2017/194
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Recolha de opiniões sobre o Relatório da Acção Governativa para o Ano Financeiro de 2018 do Governo da Região Administrativa Especial de Macau

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Partilhe as suas ideias, diga-nos o que pensa.
O Governo da RAEM está a preparar o «Relatório das Linhas de Acção Governativa para o Ano Financeiro de 2018». Os cidadãos podem apresentar as suas opiniões através dos seguintes meios:

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Manhattan F Unit, High Floor

(Ref: 16090612)

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Wonderfully bright and modern property in the desirable complex of Manhattan. Three good size bedrooms all with plenty of wardrobe space. Master bedroom has en suite bathroom. Open plan living dining area over looks North East over the South China Sea to HK. Furnished throughout.



Coloane, 4 Storey Commercial Building

(Ref: 17040646)

4,003 sq.ft. HKD 1,68,000

The property is a licensed commercial space spread over 4 floors including a basement, ground floor retail, and two upper floors in the heart of the unique Coloane village situated next door to the famous 'Lord Stow's Bakery'. The property features an elevator and staircase to access all floors



Cheoc Van, Coloane

(Ref: 17060651)

6,222 sq.ft. HKD 79,800

Combining dazzling sea views, stylish interiors and cavernous comfort, this multi-storey property is a rare find in Macao. In the lower ground floor sits a private swimming pool alongside a large entertainment area that is perfect for entertaining guests during a hot Macau summer



Houston Court, B Unit

(Ref: 17090657)

850 sq.ft. HKD 12,800

Situated in the heart of Coloane village. The apartment has a modern open plan kitchen, dining and living area. Great size double master bedroom with en suite shower room and masses of storage. Simply furnished throughout with stylish furniture. The kitchen comes fully fitted with good quality built in appliances



Va Nam, Taipa Village

(Ref: 17085531)

680 sq.ft. HKD 4.42M

Rate: HKD 6,500

Top floor apartment Taipa Village. Fully renovated 4 years ago from a small two bedroom property to a large one bedroom. The bedroom has ample space for king bed and lots of storage, two fabulous windows giving lots of natural light into the room. Lovely shower room with walk in shower



Coloane Village (Investment Property) - Coloane

(Ref: 16095490)

664 sq.ft. HKD 4.252M

Rate: HKD 6,404

Located in the quiet village of Coloane. Renovated 3 years ago this apartment needs no further investment. 2 bedrooms; a double & single size. Shower room with built in cabinets. Fully fitted kitchen. Open views. Close to Coloane bus stop, village square, cafes



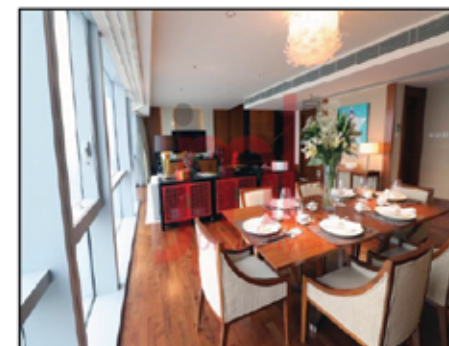
Check Van House, Coloane

(Ref: 17065524)

5,972 sq.ft. HKD 98M

Rate: HKD 16,409

This magnificent property is newly renovated, and has unobstructed sea views from all 5 floors. Both the interior and exterior of the property brandishes stylish and contemporary designs with a mix of beautiful light colours that accentuates the spaciousness and abundance of natural light.



Mandarin Residences Serviced Duplex

(Ref: 17065522)

3,487 sq.ft. HKD 88M

Rate: HKD 25,236

The property comes tastefully designed with elegant, high-grade furnishing and floor-to-ceiling windows that provides a breath-taking panoramic view of the sea and Macau. The modern galley kitchen on the first floor comes fully-fitted with high-grade



Old Taipa, Nam Long (1 Unit)

(Ref: 16095500)

515 sq.ft. HKD 3.8M

Rate: HKD 7,378

Unique property located at the beginning of old Taipa village. A great investment property which was renovated in 2015, making the original two small bedrooms into one spacious bright room bedroom. The kitchen has also been opened up and is now just off the living area, giving the apartment a lofty feeling. The kitchen is small however well equipped with most appliances built in.



Hellene Gardens, Lot IV, Unit B, Carnation Court, Coloane

(Ref: 17025509)

1,663 sq.ft. HKD 8.3M

Rate: HKD 4,990

Located in the clean, beautiful island of Coloane, this stunning 3 bedroom, 2 bath apartment has incredible sea views from the living room and master bedroom, and green mountain views from all other rooms. The apartment has been renovated to a high standard with modern bathrooms etc



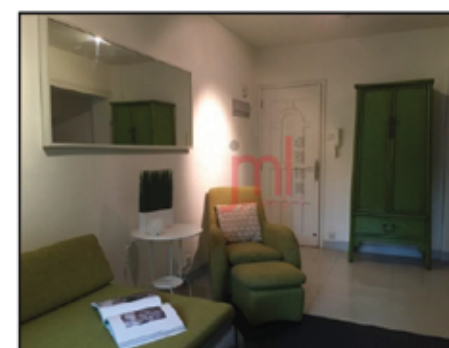
Nam Long, Taipa Village

(Ref: 17085534)

691 sq.ft. HKD 4.485M

Rate: HKD 6,490

Lovely apartment on the second floor of a three storey building in Taipa Village. Renovated 10 years ago from a two bedroom property to a great size one bedroom apartment, well maintained and managed by JML of the last ten years, historical maintenance data available on request. The bedroom has ample space for double bed and plenty of storage.



Va Fat, Taipa Village

(Ref: 17085533)

638 sq.ft. HKD 4.25M

Rate: HKD 6,661

Lovely apartment on the third floor of a five storey building in Taipa Village. Renovated 3 years ago the apartment has two good size bedrooms and separate walk in shower room. The apartment has been well maintained and managed by JML of the last eight years, historical maintenance data available on request. The main bedroom has ample space for double bed and plenty of storage.

Office: (853) 2835 2699

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Contact Property Consultants Today.

Juliet Risdon (English Speaker)

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67 contracts signed in MIF, PLPEX

SIXTY-seven agreements were signed at the 22nd Macao International Trade and Investment Fair (MIF) and the inaugural 2017 Portuguese-Speaking Countries Products and Services Exhibition (Macau) (PLPEX), both of which ended on Saturday.

The agreements covered co-operation between governments and associations, as well as collaborations involving the sectors of agriculture, tourism, sport, education and product manufacturing.

According to a statement issued by the organizer, the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM), the pre-arranged on-site buyers conducted a total of 389 matching sessions in the Business Matching Area.

The two concurrent events,

held over the course of three days, conducted a total of 45 activities including forums, seminars and presentations.

The forums and activities held at the events included the "Angola, Guangdong and Macau Trade and Investment Forum", "Cambodia Trade, Investment & Tourism Development Forum", "The 7th Jiangsu - Macau - Portuguese-Speaking Countries Business Forum" and "Fujian, Macau and Portuguese-Speaking Countries Economic Exchange Networking Session."

The "14th World Summit of Chinese Entrepreneurs", "Lecture: How to Assist Portuguese-speaking Countries' Products enter the Chinese Market" and "China and Portuguese Speaking Countries SMEs Investment and Trade Matchmaking Event" were also held.

The aim of the activities was to promote business, trade networking and collaboration between China and Portuguese-speaking countries, as well as idea exchange and communication between all parties.

IPIM stated that the sessions assisted the enterprises in "going global" and exploring markets in countries and regions along the Belt and Road, increased multi-lateral economic and trade flow, and provided local enterprises and young people with more opportunities for co-operation and development.

IPIM also stated that Sheng, an exhibitor from Jiangsu participating in MIF for the first time, has signed a co-operation intent with a bank in the region.

Sheng stated that Macau has certain advantages that enable it to position itself as a Sino-

Portuguese platform, aiding mainland Chinese enterprises in entering the markets of Portuguese-speaking countries and increasing international exposure.

Having built a factory in Brazil after 2010, the exhibitor said that they have encountered different problems in terms of the legal environment, tax policies, labor environment, public safety, culture and customs when exploring markets in Belt and Road regions.

He observed that the city enjoys advantages in term of bilingual specialists in the Chinese and Portuguese languages, human and cultural exchanges and financial resources, which can help enterprises adapt more quickly to the Portuguese-speaking countries' markets.

This year, MIG invited Angola and Guangdong as its "Partner Country" and "Partner Province" respectively, and set up thematic pavilions.

Enterprises from over 50 countries and regions participated in MIF, with more than 1,500 booths. Meanwhile, PLPEX attracted over 210 participating enterprises and institutes.

building a data platform for smart government which, according to Ma, "is integrating all Macau government data into one service platform."

In order to achieve increased mobility in Macau through "smart transportation", the government plans to increase public access to information via the Internet. These could include apps allowing commuters to check whether a bus is full, or its location in real time.

Advancements in health care and tourism will follow similar guidelines to the concepts explained above, with the Macau government aiming to utilize the Internet to increase access to information about the city's hospital services, and to help tourists to stay updated on developments in Macau tourism. **JZ**

MIF

Multiculturalism may help Macau become a 'smart city'

AN economic forum on sustainable cities was organized as part of the 22nd Macao International Trade & Investment Fair last Friday.

During the forum, Ma Chi Ngai, chairman of the Macao Science and Technology Development Fund, shared with participants the concept of developing Macau as a "smart city".

According to Ma, a "smart city" uses more advanced technologies to upgrade society's civil functions and to provide more convenient public services.

Internationally, there are diverse sets of indicators for a "smart city",



Ma Chi Ngai

one of the most popular having been developed by American urban and climate strategist Boyd Cohen.

Cohen's "smart city" concept includes the elements smart economy, smart government, smart environment, smart mobility, smart living, and smart

people.

On how Macau can transform itself into a "smart city," Ma said that the main elements for Macau's development lie in its multicultural background.

"When we talk about a smart city, we also talk about urban cities, which share some DNA

elements. So, what is the DNA of Macau's prominent characteristics? First, Macau has a long history of Chinese and western cultures mixed together," said Ma, adding that Macau is a city for tourism that also involves Portuguese-speaking countries.

"We are the platform for China and Portuguese-speaking countries, and these are the main elements we want to identify in our smart city."

Ma said the indicators for Macau include four elements: smart government, smart transportation, smart healthcare, and smart tourism.

Macau is currently

Inflation sees marginal acceleration in Sep.

The Composite Consumer Price Index (CPI), a key measure of inflation, grew in September 2017 by 1.39 percent year-on-year to 109.69, according to data released by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC). This was slightly higher than the 1.36 percent growth in August. DSEC attributes the marginal growth acceleration to higher charges for eating out and outpatient services, as well as an increase in tuition fees for the new academic year. Among the various sections of goods and services, the price indexes of health and education grew by 5.3 percent and 4.27 percent year-on-year, respectively. Meanwhile, the price index of food and non-alcoholic beverages, which accounted for the largest share of household expenditure, went up by 1.96 percent. For the 12 months ending September 2017, the average Composite CPI increased by 1.14 percent from the previous period, with a notable increase in the price index of education (+7.14 percent) and alcoholic beverages and tobacco (+5.08 percent).

Trade Union bill to be discussed once again at AL

A new version of the Trade Union bill presented by lawmaker José Pereira Coutinho will be one of the first proposals to be voted on at the Macau Legislative Assembly (AL), the lawmaker told the Times. Coutinho's proposal was submitted to and accepted by the AL, and is now pending a date for discussion in the plenary session. This will be the ninth time that a Trade Union bill will be discussed at the hemicycle. The first eight were rejected by lawmakers, who voted against a bill that would have allowed workers to exercise freedom of association and collectively negotiate labor conditions.

Woman injured in fire now in 'satisfactory' condition

A Macau woman, who was hospitalized in critical condition after she was trapped in fire that broke out at a Myanmar hotel last week, is now in a "satisfactory" condition, a statement from the MSAR's Tourism Crisis Management Office (GGCT) informed. The Office has contacted the affected woman's family and reports that although her condition is stable, she is "unable to move easily" and must remain in the hospital for some time. The woman's family arrived in Myanmar late last week to visit her. The GGCT has stated that it will maintain close contact with both the injured resident and the Embassy of China in Myanmar in order to provide assistance as needed.



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Crown attacks Aussie lawmaker over casino misconduct allegations

Jason Scott

CROWN Resorts Ltd., controlled by billionaire James Packer, has used an open letter to label allegations made by an Australian lawmaker that it skirted anti-money laundering rules and tampered with slot machines as unfair and unfounded.

"I am angered and disappointed by the outrageous allegations that have been leveled at us by Andrew Wilkie," Crown Executive Chairman John Alexander said in the letter. "If he believes he has evidence of wrongdoing, he should stop the political games, step out of the parliament and make his claims without privilege."

Crown, which is emerging from a legal scandal in China that prompted a retreat from its international operations, now faces regulatory and police probes at home after Wilkie on Wednesday tabled the allegations, made by three whistleblowers who identified themselves as former staff of the company's Melbourne casino. The identities of the three men were heavily disguised through image pixelation and voice altering.

The whistleblowers said some Crown slot machines, commonly



referred to as poker machines in Australia, were adjusted to allow buttons to remain pressed down to continuously generate bets at its Melbourne casino, against Victorian state laws. Some buttons were disabled to reduce the choice of consumers as to how much they bet, prompting the state's casino regulator to order fixes, they said.

They also alleged they were instructed to use different player ID cards when processing transactions above AUD10,000

(USD7,817) to avoid money-laundering oversight.

The nation's financial crimes agency Austrac and the Victorian gambling regulator have said they are investigating the claims, while Australian Federal Police is evaluating allegations and material referred to it by Wilkie.

"Crown operates in a strictly regulated environment, with multiple government agencies and state law enforcement bodies supervising our operations,"

Alexander said in the letter. "We have a sophisticated anti-money-laundering program and we take compliance with Austrac requirements very seriously."

The allegations are the latest setback for Melbourne-based Crown, which is now relying on domestic revenue to boost earnings. Its overseas strategy fell apart in the wake of a crackdown on its Chinese operations that saw some staff convicted in China in June of illegally promoting gambling. Packer, 50, returned

to the company's board this year and closed most of its Asian offices to focus on profitable casinos in Australia.

Crown's experience in China has been very profitable but ended in a very embarrassing way.

JAMES PACKER

Packer said in an interview published in the Weekend Australian on Saturday that he had "little choice" but to withdraw from Macau after the arrests in China and felt "let down" over the scandal.

"Crown's experience in China has been very profitable but ended in a very embarrassing way," Packer said, according to the newspaper.

Requests for comment to Wilkie's spokesman on Saturday weren't immediately responded to. **Bloomberg**

PROPERTY

Is the rent too damn high? These cities make NYC look dirt cheap

Andre Tartar, Wei Lu

AS people around the world move into cities and look for housing, one thing is clear: Most will have a hard time paying for it.

Average monthly take-home pay won't cover the cost of buying a 1,000-square-foot residence or renting a three-bedroom home in any of the 105 metropolitan areas ranked by the Bloomberg Global City Housing Affordability Index – based on a general rule of thumb among U.S. lenders that people should spend no more than 28 percent of net income on housing costs. Only 12 cities would be considered affordable if they spend 50 percent.

Residents face many obstacles, including urban land-use regulations, underdeveloped rental markets and

difficulty getting financing, according to Enrique Martínez-García, a senior research economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas who studies housing prices. Policy solutions to these problems aren't clear, he adds.

"Not having access to credit is a challenge to develop a healthy housing market," he said. "But opening it up too fast might be a problem as well; it might actually lead to a boom-bust episode."

The Bloomberg index calculates the affordability of renting or buying in city centers and suburbs. Rankings are based on self-reported data, including net salary and mortgage interest rates, compiled by Numbeo.com, an online database of city and country statistics.

Since 2012, 48 cities in the Bloomberg index have become less affordable, while

affordability improved in 51. (Historical data aren't available for all 105.) In nine of the bottom 10, average net income fell, while income in eight of the top 10 cities rose as rental and mortgage costs declined.

Emerging economies currently have the least-affordable housing, led by Ca-

Four Chinese metro areas, including Hong Kong, were among the 20 least-affordable in the index

racas and Kiev in Ukraine. The remaining cities among the bottom 20 include seven in Asia and six in Latin America. London is the least-affordable major city in Western Europe, with average monthly rent and mortgage payments equaling 135 percent of monthly net income.

In Rio de Janeiro, Brazil's second-largest city, average monthly take-home pay of USD640 won't unlock a rental even on the outskirts of town, let alone provide the means to buy a house or apartment in the city center, where monthly mortgage payments approach \$2,000. This contributes to multiple-income households and also may explain why more than one in five Rio residents lived in informal shantytowns called favelas in 2010, the



A view of downtown Shenzhen

most recent data available. Six of the 10 cities with the greatest deterioration in the past five years are in Latin America.

Seven of the top 10 most-affordable cities are in North America: four in the U.S. and three in Canada. The least-affordable metro area in the two countries is Vancouver, where an influx of foreign cash has caused a surge in home prices. New York ranked near the middle of the index.

Two of the cities with the greatest improvement are in China: Shenzhen and Guangzhou. Even so, housing demand across the country

continues to outweigh supply, "despite rapid construction and the large-scale delivery of new homes" in cities including Shenzhen, according to Kate Everett-Allen, head of international residential research at real-estate consultant Knight Frank in London. That's because of "mass urbanization" and relatively low wages, she said, adding that home prices in several cities grew at an annual rate of as much as 40 percent last year.

Four Chinese metro areas, including Hong Kong, were among the 20 least-affordable in the index. **Bloomberg**

Propaganda faces stiff competition from celebrities

Yi-Ling Liu, Hong Kong

WHEN the propaganda film, "The Founding of an Army," hit theaters in China recently, the reaction wasn't quite what the ruling Communist Party might have hoped for.

Instead of inspiring an outpouring of nationalism and self-sacrifice for the state, it was roundly mocked for trying to lure a younger audience by casting teen idols as revolutionary party leaders.

Viewers more used to seeing the idols play love interests in light-hearted soap operas responded to the film by projecting "modern-day romantic narratives on the founding fathers of the nation," said Hung Huang, a well-known social commentator based in Beijing. "It was hilarious."

While China's resurgent Communist Party once pushed its policies on an



Residents wait near security personnel resting near a billboard featuring a popular actor in Beijing

unquestioning public, it now struggles to compete for attention with the country's booming entertainment industry and the celebrity culture it has spawned.

"Chinese people are increasingly ignoring party propaganda and are much more interested in movie stars, who represent a new lifestyle and more exciting aspirations," said Willy

Lam, an expert on Chinese politics at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

President Xi Jinping, who will cement his authority with his expected endorsement to a second five-year term at this week's national party congress, has placed a priority on stamping out too much Western influence in Chinese society in part so the party can dictate the values the youth should embrace.

Authorities have responded by taking aim at everything from gossip websites to soap opera story lines to celebrity salaries. Instead of selfish, rich stars, the state is promoting performers who are all about patriotism, purity and other values that support the party's legitimacy.

The results have at best been mixed and at worst ham-fisted and out of touch.

One problem is that the party's values often clash with what young Chinese want to watch, according to Hung. Among the more popular shows watched by Chinese youth are those that center on palace intrigue, martial arts fantasies, high school romances or single, independent women.

"While the government could once dictate to young people what they should value and how they should lead their lives, they find themselves completely without the tools to do that now," she said.

In the 1970s, the state was able to promote people seen as paragons

of youthful devotion and selflessness, but Hung said that no longer works because young Chinese — like their counterparts in the West — now prefer to follow celebrity gossip and have the tools with which to do so.

Just this month, teen idol Lu Han, also known as China's Justin Bieber, announced he had a girlfriend, triggering a flood of shares, responses and 4 million "likes" within a few hours that briefly crashed the country's popular Weibo microblog service.

A recent commentary in The Global Times, a party newspaper with a nationalistic stance, railed against such celebrity worship, saying China had now surpassed the West in that regard.

"It's unfair that these stars accrue such glory, unimaginable to those who have made a decisive contribution to the country," the commentary said.

That was likely a reason the government-backed China Alliance of Radio, Film and Television moved last month to cap the pay of actors, whose salaries had hit historic highs as young Chinese and a burgeoning middle class increasingly spend on movie tickets and goods.

People are increasingly ignoring party propaganda and are much more interested in movie stars.

WILLY LAM

In another move earlier this year, authorities closed 60 popular celebrity gossip and social media accounts and called on internet giants such as Tencent and Baidu to "actively propagate core socialist values, and create an ever-healthier environment for the mainstream public opinion."

The tension between popular culture and state propaganda isn't new in China. In the 1980s, Deng Xiaoping's lieutenants railed against spiritual pollution. But it has gained new traction since Xi came to power in 2012 and officials began a wide-ranging crackdown on perceived so-

cial ills from corruption to dissent to — now — entertainment.

"Xi Jinping has been advocating a revision to traditional, Confucian moral standards," Lam said. "The definition of what is vulgar or morally problematic has been inflated and expanded so that it has become all-encompassing."

Shows about the pursuit of great wealth and luxury that used to be tolerated under Xi's predecessor, aren't anymore.

The government has demanded that broadcasters "resist celebrity worship" and limit the air time dedicated to film and TV stars.

"The party does not want these entertainment programs to compete with news programs and 'morality shows,'" said Jian Xu, a Chinese media research fellow at Deakin University in Melbourne, Australia.

One example of a state-approved show is "Touching China," which honors people who have "touched the nation with their tenacity, bravery and wisdom."

The government has also tried to shape some celebrities into party-sanctioned role models.

Thanks to their wholesome image and uplifting, patriotic lyrics, the TFBoys, China's first home-grown boy band, have risen to fame because of "political opportunities" they've been given, Xu said. The band is pursued by adoring fans and has performed twice on the coveted Lunar New Year gala hosted by state broadcaster China Central Television; it has also been promoted by the Communist Youth League.

Stars deviating from the party's image of purity and moral acceptability, however, have been punished. In a high-profile drug crackdown in 2014, authorities publicly chastised a succession of celebrities caught using drugs, including Jackie Chan's son, Jaycee Chan, and singer Li Daimo, forcing them to apologize on state television.

Beijing may struggle to win over young Chinese, but it won't stop its carrot-and-stick approach to regulating the industry.

"The government's method of punishment and praise is very obvious: If you work with me, you will reap the benefits, if you don't, you won't. If you're a good boy, you get candy, if you don't, you won't," Xu said. AP

AD



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Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

IN this summer's "Wolf Warrior II," Chinese action star Wu Jing portrays a tough super-patriot who rescues both fellow countrymen and oppressed Africans with help from the People's Liberation Army.

Audiences loved what became China's biggest-grossing movie ever. Some reportedly sang the national anthem as the movie closed on an image of a Chinese passport and the words, "Please remember, at your back stands a strong motherland."

This red-blooded nationalism has been channeled skillfully by President and ruling Communist Party leader Xi Jinping as he seeks to strengthen the party's role in Chinese life and shepherd the country's rise to prominence at a time when the United States and others in the West are seen to be in retreat.

Xi's muscular foreign policy could become even more assertive following this month's congress of the ruling Communist Party, where delegates will agree to support his policies and endorse his second five-year term as party secretary general, observers say.

"Xi's on a roll," said June Teufel Dreyer, professor of political science at the University of Miami. She predicted he would continue expanding China's influence by gradually increasing pressure on other countries, a tactic seen in Beijing's steady island-building efforts in the South China Sea, for instance.

In an address Wednesday to the congress' opening session, Xi reiterated that China pursues an "independent foreign policy of peace" and maintains a defensive military posture. However, he also warned other countries not to underestimate China's willingness to stand up for itself.

"No one should expect China to swallow anything that undermines its interests," Xi told delegates at Beijing's hulking Great Hall of the People.

For years, after its emergence from hard-line Marxism in the late 1980s, China stuck to reformist leader Deng Xiaoping's dictum to "keep a low profile and bide one's time, while also getting things done."

That began to change after the last decade's global financial crisis, from which China emerged relatively unscathed, and the country's foreign policy has since shifted into high gear under Xi.

China has succeeded in leveraging its booming economy and mountain of foreign currency holdings to influence other nations and further its global ambitions. A key watershed came this year, when the People's Liberation Army began manning China's first overseas base in Djibouti, reversing decades of rhetoric eschewing such facilities as imperialist Cold War holdovers.

The overall goal seems clear: Restore China to its traditional role as East Asia's leading nation



A video showing Chinese President Xi Jinping handling an assault rifle is shown at an exhibition highlighting China's achievements under five years of his leadership at the Beijing Exhibition Hall

19TH PARTY CONGRESS

Make China Great Again! Xi leads China into muscular new era

and a global economic and cultural force.

Xi said as much in his opening address on Wednesday when he outlined a vision of raising China's international stature. By 2050, Xi said, China would be "a global leader in terms of composite national strength and international influence."

"Xi presents very bold visions for where China should be headed and what China must become," said Jingdong Yuan, an Asia-Pacific security expert at Australia's University of Sydney.

A more forceful post-congress approach could include expanding China's role in international bodies and new China-sponsored initiatives such as the Asian Infrastructure Development Bank. China could also become more assertive in regional hot spots such as the South and East China Seas and its contested border with India.

Perhaps no strategy reflects Xi's vision more clearly than the "Belt and Road Initiative" launched around the time of Xi's elevation five years ago. The massive undertaking seeks to link China to Southeast Asia, Central Asia, Africa, Europe and beyond with a sprawling network of roads, railways, ports and other economic projects valued in the hundreds

of billions of dollars. The goal is to make China an indispensable economic partner with expanded political influence, while offering new opportunities for Chinese businesses weighed down by overcapacity and shrinking markets at home.

A more forceful post-congress approach could include expanding China's role in international bodies and new China-sponsored initiatives

To do this, China has refined its diplomacy to take advantage of favorable global trends while not going so far that it would damage relationships with its neighbors and the United States, Yuan said.

In some areas, China has proved unyielding. Beijing, for instance, angrily rejected last year's ruling

by an international tribunal in The Hague in a Philippine case that invalidated most of China's territorial claims in the contested South China Sea.

It has also taken a hard line against South Korea's deployment of a U.S. anti-missile system that Beijing calls a security threat. South Korea has been vilified in Chinese state media, with Chinese group tours banned and South Korean businesses in China hit hard.

However, the pragmatic approach more often wins out.

Beijing has largely resisted the urge to fire back when U.S. President Donald Trump lambasts China for not doing enough on North Korea or allegedly cheating at trade, instead offering measured responses. Xi, meanwhile, pulled off a successful visit to Trump's Mar-a-Lago Florida estate that was heavy on the sort of positive optics Beijing prefers. Trump is now due to travel to Beijing in November.

In China's latest border standoff with India, Beijing agreed to a mutual pullback of forces just days ahead of a China-hosted summit of large developing economies attended by both Xi and his Indian counterpart, Narendra Modi.

Beijing has also softened its

approach to charm Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, offering him infrastructure investment and military assistance against Muslim rebels, while agreeing to allow Philippine fishermen to return to their traditional grounds in Scarborough Shoal, which China seized in 2012.

The approach seems to be working. The results of a recent Pew Research Center survey show two-thirds of Filipinos believe strong economic relations with China are of greater importance, as opposed to 28 percent who say getting tough with China over territorial disputes is more important. When last asked the question in 2015, Filipinos were divided almost evenly on what was more important.

Domestic politics also play a role in the shape of Chinese foreign policy. Leaders have traditionally used nationalism to blunt opposition and discontent, said Yanan He, an expert on Chinese foreign policy at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

If Xi fails to win total backing for his appointments and policies at the congress, "he may continue to unleash foreign assertiveness, and may even seek out conflicts with certain countries that can arouse patriotic support at home," He said. **AP**

JAPAN

Shinzo Abe heads to impressive election win

Ken Moritsugu, Tokyo

JAPAN'S ruling coalition appeared headed to an impressive win in national elections yesterday, in what would represent at least a partial comeback for Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

A victory would boost Abe's chances of winning another three-year term next September as leader of the Liberal Democratic Party. That could extend his premiership to 2021, giving him more time to try to win a reluctant public over to his longtime goal of revising Japan's pacifist constitution.

In the immediate term, a victory likely means a continuation of the policies Abe has pursued in the nearly five years since he took office in December 2012 — a hard line on North Korea, close ties with Washington, including defense, as well as a super-loose monetary policy and push for nuclear energy.

Japanese media projected shortly after polls closed that

Abe's LDP and its junior partner Komeito might even retain their two-thirds majority in the lower house of parliament.

In unofficial results late yesterday night, the ruling coalition had won 264 seats in the 465-seat lower house, and other parties had 109 seats, Japanese public broadcaster NHK said. Final results may not be tallied until Monday.

Abe said the results indicate that voters support his policies and want to see his political leadership continue.

"I think the results reflected the voters' preference for a solid political foundation and their expectations for us to push policies forward and achieve results," Abe told NHK.

Abe's support ratings had fallen to around 30 percent in the summer after accusations of government favoritism to people connected to him, sparking talk that he might be vulnerable as leader of his party and prime minister.

"I will humbly face the victory and continue to work humbly and sincerely," he told NHK, noting lingering public distrust over the scandals.

Abe dissolved the lower house less than a month ago, forcing the snap election. The lower house chooses the prime minister and is the more powerful of the two chambers of parliament.

Analysts saw Abe's move as an attempt to solidify his political standing at a time when the opposition was in disarray and his support ratings had improved somewhat.

His plan was briefly upstaged by the launch of a new opposition party by populist Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike, but initial excitement faded and Koike herself decided not to run for parliament.

NHK projected that her Party of Hope would win just 38 to 59 seats.

Koike called the results "very severe" in a televised interview from Paris, where she is atten-



Abe raises his arm with a party candidate during an election campaign rally in Tokyo

ding a conference of mayors. She said some of her remarks might have been taken negatively by voters, and that she would take the blame.

Projections indicated that another new party, the Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan, could outpoll the Party of Hope and become the biggest opposition grouping. The Constitutional Democrats are liberal-leaning, while both the Party of Hope and Abe's Liberal Democratic Party are more conservative.

Abe's party and its nationalist supporters have advocated constitutional revisions for

years. They view the 1947 constitution as the legacy of Japan's defeat in World War II and an imposition of the victor's world order and values. The charter renounces the use of force in international conflicts and limits Japan's troops to self-defense, although Japan has a well-equipped modern military that works closely with the U.S.

Any change to Japan's constitution, which has never been amended, requires approval first by two-thirds of parliament, and then in a public referendum. Polls indicate that the Japanese public remains opposed to amendment. **AP**

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The royal crematorium and funeral complex for the late Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej



Mourners pay their respects in front of a portrait of the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej

King's legacy still felt strongly as Thailand bids goodbye

Denis D. Gray, Huay Hom

HALF a century has passed and the king is dead, but the villagers of Huay Hom still haven't forgotten the day Bhumibol Adulyadej descended by helicopter into their remote, impoverished mountain valley in northern Thailand and changed their lives forever.

The king, they recall, brought electricity and a road that replaced the trail they trudged over for eight hours to reach the nearest roadhead. Coffee growing was greatly expanded and soon supplanted opium harvests, reaching such high quality that Starbucks is now a steady customer. The village even reaped profits from the royal-assisted raising of sheep and wool weaving, a rarity in tropical Thailand.

So to thank the king on behalf of Huay Hom's 72 now well-to-do families, Kamchai Sawankitsomboon traveled more than 750 kilometers to Bangkok's Grand Palace. There, after standing in line for 13 hours, he prostrated himself before Bhumibol's coffin — one of nearly 13 million people to do so during a year of mourning that will all but come to a close with the late king's cremation this coming week.

The religious-like fervor surrounding this outpouring of grief stems from many things: nostalgia for the past, a very personal connection that millions of Thais felt they had forged with their monarch, and gratefulness, as in Kamchai's case, for the decades Bhumibol put in working on behalf of the country's have-nots.

Regarded as a stabilizing figure

amid political turbulence and headlong modernization, the king's passing on Oct. 13, 2016 also evoked anxiety about what comes next as the country confronts the close of an era.

With his son King Maha Vajiralongkorn, a yet untested monarch, on the throne and an entrenched military regime promoting a meandering "roadmap to guided democracy," several Thai academics at a recent international conference said "the Bhumibol consensus" has been replaced by "politics of uncertainty."

How many of Bhumibol's words and deeds endure remains to be seen.

"Thai people will never be the same again as Thailand will never be the same again," said Thitinan Pongsudhirak, a political scientist at Bangkok's Chulalongkorn University.

Thais born when Bhumibol's reign began 70 years ago who are still alive today have known 30 prime ministers and a succession of coups, constitutions and economic upheavals. But until last year they had had only one king who many credit with steering the country through these crises and presiding over evolution from a poor rural society to a modern \$400 billion economy.

Many were imprinted with his image at an early age. His persona became a part of their lives.

Oraboon Imchai Bulut, a young businesswoman, vividly remembers seeing the king's portrait on the cover of her first school notebook. While she never met Bhumibol, a friend told her how her grandfather's eyesight was saved by an operation sponsored by the king.

Waiting overnight to view the coffin, Oraboon brought along a photograph of her deceased father in what she said was "a last chance to say goodbye."

"People in their 40s, 50s and 60s still feel very much related, involved and attached to his reign. The millennials perhaps less because His Majesty did less of the public engagements [after his illness]," Thitinan said. "By and large the vast majority of Thais today would more or less collectively feel the same: we are grateful for the reign."

Criticism of the late monarch has surfaced in recent years. Some Thai and foreign analysts and activists say the king impeded the progress of the country's still fledgling democracy by wielding too much power and often siding with the military and other conservative forces.

Bhumibol's near deification, critics say, has in part been driven by royalist propaganda and buttressed by strict laws outlawing insults to the monarchy. Others have noted that a society relying too heavily on one individual rests on fragile foundations.

But such commentary has been largely subdued within Thailand as the nation prepares for the final farewell to Bhumibol, who died at the age of 88 after a prolonged illness.

He will be cremated Oct. 26 within a soaring, purpose-built USD30 million pavilion. Officials

expect a quarter million people clad in black to attend an elaborate, centuries-old ceremony that is probably the last of its kind in Asia.

Bhumibol himself may prove to be the last monarch of his kind, someone embedded in the national psyche through his overreaching sway and historical circumstances.

"It was an extraordinary time and he was just an exceptional individual suited for it," Thitinan said. "The country needed a lot of development so he spearheaded development projects. The country needed to keep away from communism so he was a rallying point, a unifying symbol against communism," he continued, referring to the Cold War when Thailand's neighbors fell to communist regimes and the country tackled a domestic, Chinese-backed insurgency.

It was during this era that many of the now more than 4,000 royal development projects were seeded.

In Huay Hom village, cradled in a 1,000-meter, mist-streaked valley, a third generation of Christian inhabitants of the Karen ethnic minority relate how the Buddhist king built upon earlier help from American missionaries.

"Never a day goes by while in the village without one of the old timers reminding me of that day," writes Richard Mann, who accompanied Bhumibol and his family on that first visit.

In an unpublished memoir, the American former head of a project to replace opium with profitable cash crops describes how the local church choir sang hymns to the royals in four-part harmony and how the elders

were blunt in their requests for a road, a better school, medical clinic and electricity.

"All those needs," he wrote, "have been met."

Jirapan Davivongs, deputy secretary general of the Chaipattana Foundation which oversees a number of the royal development initiatives, said the projects will continue through government funding and other support.

But Bhumibol's most lasting legacy, he believes, was his concept of the self-sufficiency economy, which stressed smaller-scaled, sustainable production that could better withstand global shockwaves.

That notion gained traction when Thailand was hit by forces largely out of its control during the 1997 Asian economic crisis, although some regarded it more as an idealized throwback to an older epoch rather than a viable economic system for an already highly capitalistic, globalized nation.

How many of Bhumibol's words and deeds endure remains to be seen.

An editorial in the English-language Bangkok Post last week said that already in the past 12 months, state and other actors had failed in their pledges to follow in the king's footsteps.

It cited matters Bhumibol had opposed: excessive military spending, scandals in sustainable agricultural projects, eviction of landless people and the disappearance of conservation activists. "Merely paying lip service to his words and wishes is not enough," it said.

Thitinan said that with a greatly transformed Thailand, the time had come to recalibrate the old political order to include more institutions and players, not just the military, bureaucratic and royalist power brokers.

"Now we have to find a system not based on one individual," he said. "It cannot be the same as before." AP

EGYPT

54 policemen killed in ambush, say officials

At least 54 policemen, including 20 officers and 34 conscripts, were killed when a raid on a militant hideout southwest of Cairo was ambushed, officials said Saturday. The ensuing firefight was one of the deadliest for Egyptian security forces in recent years.

Two police officials told The Associated Press that the exchange of fire began late Friday in the al-Wahat al-Bahriya area in Giza province, about 135 kilometers southwest of Cairo.

They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief media.

The firefight began when security forces acting on intelligence moved against a militants' hideout in the area. Backed by armored personnel carriers and led by senior counterterrorism officers, the police contingent drew fire and rocket-propelled grenades, according to the officials.

The officials said what happened next is not clear, but added that the force likely ran out of ammunition and that the militants captured several policemen and later killed them.

The officials said the police force appeared to have fallen into a carefully planned ambush set up by the militants. The death toll could increase, they added.

Those killed included two police brigadier-generals, a colonel and 10 lieutenant colonels.

Egypt's Interior Ministry, which



People carry the coffin, covered with an Egyptian flag, of police captain Ahmed Fayeze who was killed in a gun battle

is in charge of police, announced a much lower death toll, saying in a statement read over state television that 16 were killed in the shootout. It added that 15 militants were killed or injured, later releasing photos of some of them.

The last time Egypt's security forces suffered such a heavy loss of life was in July 2015 when militants from the extremist Islamic State group carried out a series of coordinated attacks, including suicide bombings, against army and police positions in the Sinai peninsula, killing at least 50. However, the army said only 17 soldiers and over 100 militants were killed.

An official statement issued Saturday said Friday's incident would be investigated, suggesting that the heavy death toll may have been partially caused by incompetence, intelligence failures or lack of coordination.

The officials said prosecutors will look into whether the police's counterterrorism agents failed to inform the military of the operation or include them.

Two audio recordings purportedly by policemen who took part in the operation circulated online late Friday. One policeman, apparently using a two-way radio, was heard in the nearly two-minute recording pleading for help from a higher-ranking officer.

"We are the only ones injured, sir," the policeman said. "We were 10 but three were killed. After their injury, they bled to death, sir."

"They took all the weapons and ammunition," he added, "We are now at the foot of a mountain."

The second recording was purportedly by a policeman warning others. "I can't identify any direction. Only planes can see us. Take

care every one," he was heard saying, adding that militants were pursuing them.

The authenticity of the recordings could not be immediately verified.

The heavy loss of life will likely lead to the restructuring and streamlining of the country's counterterrorism effort, the officials said, with better coordination between the police, military and security agencies high on the list of objectives.

It's also likely to be cited by government critics as a vindication of their long-held argument that suppressing freedoms, jailing opponents and cracking down on civil society does not, as the pro-government media insists, help in the war against terror.

No militant group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, which bore all the hallmarks of the Islamic State group. A local affiliate of the extremist group is spearheading an insurgency whose epicenter is in the Sinai Peninsula, which borders Israel and the Gaza Strip.

The United States condemned the attack in a statement issued by State Department, offering "profound condolences to the families of the deceased and the government and people of Egypt... at this difficult time."

The incident comes a few days after militants staged a brazen daylight attack in the heart of

el-Arish, the largest city in the Sinai Peninsula, attacking a church and a nearby bank and reportedly making away with some USD1 million. Seven were killed in the Monday attack.

Attacks by militants have significantly increased since the 2013 ouster by the military of an Islamist president, who was freely elected but whose one-year rule proved divisive. Attacks have also spread outside Sinai and into the country's mainland and areas close to the porous Libyan border to the west.

The country has been under a state of emergency since April, following a spate of suicide bombings targeting minority Christians that have killed more than a 100 since December. The attacks were claimed by IS.

Egypt blamed the attacks on the Christians on militant cells trained and armed in neighboring Libya, where mostly Islamist militias, including extremist groups like IS, control territory or maintain a foothold in the vast, oil-rich nation. In response, Egypt has stepped up security along its desert border with Libya, where it supports an eastern-based army general fighting militant groups.

In July 2014, gunmen armed with rocket-propelled grenades attacked a border guard post in Egypt's western desert in a brazen assault that killed 21 troops deployed close to the Libyan border. **AP**

USA

Trump has no plans to block scheduled release of JFK records

PRESIDENT Donald Trump says he doesn't plan to block the scheduled release of thousands of never publicly seen government documents related to President John F. Kennedy's assassination.

"Subject to the receipt of further information," he wrote in a Saturday morning tweet, "I will be allowing, as President, the long blocked and classified JFK FILES to be opened."

The National Archives has until Thursday to disclose the remaining files related to Kennedy's 1963 assassination. The trove is expected to include more than 3,000 documents that have never been seen by the public and more than 30,000 that have been previously released but with redactions.

Congress mandated in 1992 that all assassination

documents be released within 25 years, but Trump has the power to block them on the grounds that making them public would harm intelligence or military operations, law enforcement or foreign relations.

"Thank you. This is the correct decision. Please do not allow exceptions for any agency of government," tweeted Larry Sabato, director of the University of Virginia Center for Politics and author of a book about Kennedy, who has urged the president to release the files. "JFK files have been hidden too long."

The anticipated release has had scholars and armchair detectives buzzing. But it's unlikely the documents will contain any big revelations on a tragedy that has stirred conspiracy theories for decades, Judge John Tunheim

told The Associated Press last month. Tunheim was chairman of the independent agency in the 1990s that made public many assassination records and decided how long others could remain secret.

Sabato and other JFK scholars believe the trove of files may, however, provide insight into assassin Lee Harvey Oswald's trip to Mexico City weeks before the killing, during which he visited the Soviet and Cuban embassies. Oswald's stated reason for going was to get visas that would allow him to enter Cuba and the Soviet Union, according to the Warren Commission, the investigative body established by President Lyndon B. Johnson, but much about the trip remains unknown.

Longtime Trump friend Roger Stone, who wrote a

book alleging that Johnson was the driving force behind Kennedy's assassination, had personally urged the president to make the files public, he told far-right conspiracy theorist and radio show host Alex Jones this past week.

"Yesterday, I had the opportunity to make the case directly to the president of the United States by phone as to why I believe it is essential that he release the balance of the currently redacted and classified JFK assassination documents," Stone said, adding that "a very good White House source," but not the president, had told him the Central Intelligence Agency, "specifically CIA director Mike Pompeo, has been lobbying the president furiously not to release these documents."



John F. Kennedy waves from his car in a motorcade in Dallas minutes before being shot

"Why? Because I believe they show that Oswald was trained, nurtured and put in place by the Central Intelligence Agency. It sheds very bad light on the deep state," he said.

After the president announced his decision, Stone tweeted: "Yes! victory!"

The files that were withheld in full were those the Assassination Records Review Board deemed "not believed relevant," Tunheim said. Its members sought to ensure they weren't hiding any information directly related to Kennedy's assassination, but there may be nuggets of information in the files that they didn't realize were important two decades ago, he said.

"There could be some jewels in there because in our level of knowledge in the 1990s is maybe different from today," Tunheim said.

The National Archives in July published online more than 440 never-before-seen assassination documents and thousands of others that had been released previously with redactions.

Among those documents was a 1975 internal CIA memo that questioned whether Oswald became motivated to kill Kennedy after reading an AP article in a newspaper that quoted Fidel Castro as saying "U.S. leaders would be in danger if they helped in any attempt to do away with leaders of Cuba." **AP**

CZECH REPUBLIC

Populist billionaire's party wins big

Karel Janicek, Prague

THE centrist ANO movement led by populist Andrej Babis decisively won the Czech Republic's parliamentary election Saturday in a vote that shifted the country to the right and paved the way for the euroskeptic billionaire to become its next prime minister.

With all votes counted, the Czech Statistics Office said ANO won in a landslide, capturing 29.6 percent of the vote, or 78 of the 200 seats in the lower house of Parliament.

"It's a huge success," the 63-year-old Babis told supporters and journalists at his headquarters in Prague.

Babis is the country's second-richest man, with a media empire including two major newspapers and a popular radio station.

Although he was a finance minister in the outgoing government until May, many Czechs see him as a maverick outsider with the business acumen to shake up the system. With slogans claiming

he can easily fix the country's problems, he is, for some, the Czech answer to U.S. President Donald Trump.

Since the leader of the strongest party usually gets to form a new government, Babis could be the country's next leader despite being linked to several scandals — including being charged by police with fraud linked to European Union subsidies.

The charges will likely make it difficult for Babis to find the coalition partners he needs to build a parliamentary majority. He didn't immediately say which parties he preferred but has invited all parties that won seats in parliament for talks.

In a blow to the country's political elite, four of the top five vote-getting parties Saturday had challenged the traditional political mainstream. Some have exploited fears of immigration and Islam and have been attacking the country's memberships in the EU and NATO.

The opposition conservative Civic Democrats came in a distant

AP PHOTO



Czech billionaire and leader of ANO 2011 political movement Andrej Babis accompanied with his wife Monika addresses the media

second Saturday with 11.3 percent of the vote, or 25 seats. They were the strongest mainstream party. The Social Democrats, the senior party in the outgoing government, captured only 7.3 percent — 15 seats — while the Christian Democrats, part of the ruling coalition, won only 5.8 percent support or 10 seats.

"It's a voting hurricane," analyst Michal Klima told the Czech television, referring to the poor results for the mainstream parties.

The Pirate Party won seats for the first time, coming in third

with 10.8 percent of the vote, while the most radical anti-migrant, anti-Muslim, anti-EU party, the Freedom and Direct Democracy, was in fourth place with 10.6 percent support. The two parties won 22 seats each.

Babis' centrist movement stormed Czech politics four years ago, finishing a surprising second with an anti-corruption message. Babis has also been critical of the EU and opposes setting a date for when his country would adopt the shared euro currency.

Like most Czech parties, ANO

also rejects accepting refugees under the EU's quota system.

But Babis played down his euroskeptic views after his victory.

"We're oriented on Europe," he said. "We're not a threat for democracy. I'm ready to fight for our interests in Brussels. We're a firm part of the European Union. We're a firm part of NATO."

Still, some experts saw a strong shift to the right for the Czech Republic if Babis works out a coalition government with Tomio Okamura, head of the Freedom and Direct Democracy party, who wants to ban Islam and organize a referendum to exit the EU.

"Should [Babis] join forces with Okamura, the Czech Republic would be facing difficult times," Klima said.

A record nine parties and groupings made it into Parliament. Those included the Communists, who got 7.8 percent of the vote and 15 seats, the pro-EU conservatives with 5.3 percent and seven seats and a group of mayors who won 5.2 percent support and six seats. **AP**

AD

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what's ON



EXPRESSIONIST DRAWINGS OF MACAU BY GONSALO OOM
GONSALO OOM
TIME: 2pm-7pm
UNTIL: October 27, 2017
VENUE: Creative Macau (G/F Macau Cultural Centre Building)
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2875 3282

FLOW: GLASS ART EXHIBITION BY SUNNY WANG
TIME: 9am-9pm (Open on public holidays)
UNTIL: November 19, 2017
VENUE: Temporary Exhibition Gallery of IACM, No. 163, Av. Almeida Ribeiro
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

A PROMENADE IN THE SMALL CITY: AN ILLUSTRATION EXHIBITION OF THE MACAU CULTURAL AND CREATIVE MAP
TIME: 11am-10pm
UNTIL: December 31, 2017
VENUE: Lakeside Gallery, Anim'Arte
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6866

TREASURE OF SACRED ART OF ST. JOSEPH'S SEMINARY
TIME: 10am-5pm (Closed on Wednesdays, open on public holidays)
VENUE: St. Joseph's Seminary and Church, Rua do Seminário
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911

THE RECULTIVATION OF CULTURE: AN EXHIBITION OF CREATIVE SCRIPT HAND LETTERING
TIME: 9am-10pm daily
UNTIL: October 31, 2017
VENUE: Gallery at Team Building, IFT, Colina de Mong-Há,
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8598 1489

Offbeat

TO LEARN HOW TO SAY NEW ZEALAND LEADER'S NAME, JUST CALL HER

When an Australian journalist wanted to find out how to correctly pronounce the name of New Zealand's incoming prime minister, he — unwittingly — went straight to the top.



According to The New Zealand Herald, Tiger Webb of Australia's ABC Radio called the New Zealand Parliament on Friday to find out how Jacinda Ardern, who takes over as prime minister this coming week, pronounces her surname.

Webb was transferred to the Labor Party's offices, and none other than Ardern herself answered the phone. She told Webb that her last name is pronounced "AH-durn."

"It was funny. I was in a meeting and my desk phone started to ring and it doesn't ring much so I went over and I saw it was an international number and I just picked up," Ardern told the Herald.

The brief phone conversation sparked some lively Twitter banter after an impressed Webb tweeted about the incident.

Former New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark tweeted, "That's New Zealand!!"

Ardern, 37, will be New Zealand's youngest leader in more than 150 years, and hopes to take the country on a more liberal path following nine years of rule by the conservatives.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	RTPi Live
15:00	Miscellaneous
16:20	Zig Zag
18:50	Brazilian Mini Serie (Repeated)
19:15	Non-daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
19:50	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Sports
21:40	Miscellaneous
22:10	Brazilian Mini Serie
22:40	Miscellaneous
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:25	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:05	RTPi Live

cinema



CINETEATRO

19 - 25 Oct



GEOSTORM

ROOM 1

2:30, 4:30, 7:30, 9:30pm

Director: Dean Devlin

Starring: Gerard Butler, Jim Sturgess, Abbie Cornish, Daniel Wu

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 109 min



SKY HUNTER

ROOM 2

2:30, 6:45, 7:30pm

Director: Chen Li

Starring: Chen Li, Bingbing Fan, Qianyu Wang, Jiahang Li

Language: Putonghua (Chinese & English)

Duration: 115min



WIND RIVER

ROOM 2

9:45pm

ROOM 3

4:00, 7:45pm

Director: Taylor Sheridan

Starring: Jeremy Renner, Elizabeth Olsen

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 107 min

this day in history



1951 CHURCHILL DENIES 'WARMONGER' CLAIMS

The Conservative leader, Winston Churchill, has wound up his election campaign with a hard-hitting speech in which he vigorously denied accusations of warmongering.

The former prime minister, who is bidding to return to office after six years in opposition, was speaking in Devonport in Plymouth, on the final day of the five week campaign.

Labor has been in power since the end of World War II in 1945. Labour leader Clement Attlee was returned to government in February 1950 - but his administration has been hampered by a strong opposition and splits within his own party.

His decision to go to the polls now in the hope of increasing his majority comes at a time of worsening oil dispute with Persia and Egypt's attempt to regain control of the Suez Canal.

Labor has concentrated its attack on Mr Churchill and the Conservatives saying their return to government would make a third world war more likely.

"Whose finger on the trigger?" has become the slogan for this campaign after the Daily Mirror coined the phrase for a front-page headline.

Mr Churchill firmly rejected the charge of warmonger in today's speech: "This is a cruel and ungrateful accusation. It is the opposite of the truth."

"If I remain in public life at this juncture it is because, rightly or wrongly but sincerely, I believe that I may be able to make an important contribution to the prevention of a third world war, and to bringing nearer that lasting peace settlement which the masses of the people of every race and in every land fervently desire."

Mr Churchill said he had sought to prevent war ever since his speech at Fulton in the United States in March 1946, in which he spoke of an "iron curtain" descending across the continent of Europe and the need to reach agreement through the auspices of the United Nations Organization.

Mr Churchill went on to attack Mr Attlee and his government's track record.

"Nothing could be worse for our country and nothing could be more injurious to the cause of world peace than for Mr Attlee to be returned dependent upon a sham reconciliation between the main body of the Socialist Party and the powerful and turbulent left-wing forces whom Mr Bevan represents," he said.

Mr Bevan resigned from the government in protest at a decision to raise funds for rearmament by charging for spectacles and dentures, which had previously been free on the NHS - established during his period as minister of health.

He is seen by some on the left wing of the party as a leader in waiting.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Winston Churchill won the election, returning to the post of prime minister for the first time in peacetime at the age of 77.

The Conservatives took 321 seats to Labour's 295. The Liberals had not even been able to put up a candidate in every constituency and consequently lost out to the Conservatives.

However, Labour polled the highest share of the vote, gaining 12,948,605 votes, 200,000 more than Churchill received and higher than any of its landslide victories in 1945, 1966 or 1997.

Mr Churchill was knighted in 1953. He served as prime minister until 1955 when he resigned due to poor health. He returned to the backbenches until his death in 1965.

YOUR STARS

Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

A recent encounter that began somewhat playfully turned out to be highly-charged - and quite passionate, even. It's also tough to forget, which may or may not be a good thing.

Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

It doesn't matter whether you've planned a casual evening at the movies or a formal dinner at a five-star restaurant. No matter what you've got planned, it's probably not going to happen.

Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

You're ordinarily the life of the party, and your people may have gotten used to that by now. Weirdly, even though you woke up in the mood to play, by the time evening arrives.

Libra

Sep.23-Oct. 22

Making peace comes easily to you and it's one of the things you do best. For some reason, you're just not in the mood to do that right now. It might be because your last attempt wasn't quite successful as it should have been.

Sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

You're due for a nice, romantic evening - in fact, you're willing to do whatever it takes to have one. If someone tries to toss you a little hint, with a raised eyebrow, you need to pretend you don't know what's going on.

Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

You haven't been in this kind of mood for a really long time - and it's usually been because you've missed certain friends or relatives. You're not willing to settle for just a taste, either.

Taurus

April 20-May 20

It's going to be quite a night tonight - the kind that might go on well into tomorrow. There's only one thing to do: Pamper yourself while the sun is shining, and make sure you've got energy to keep going.

Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

You are feeling pretty good about your plans and should be able to extract a fair amount of fun out of the day if you push ahead. If something unexpected comes along that's not quite what you had in mind.

Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

You're the very soul of accommodation today. You love making others happy, and you're likely to offer your services to achieve those ends any time you think you're needed.

Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

You're equal parts strategist, detective, and analyst - and you're excellent at all three of those occupations. In fact, your real occupation (the one you get paid for) probably involves a fair amount of digging, on some level.

Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

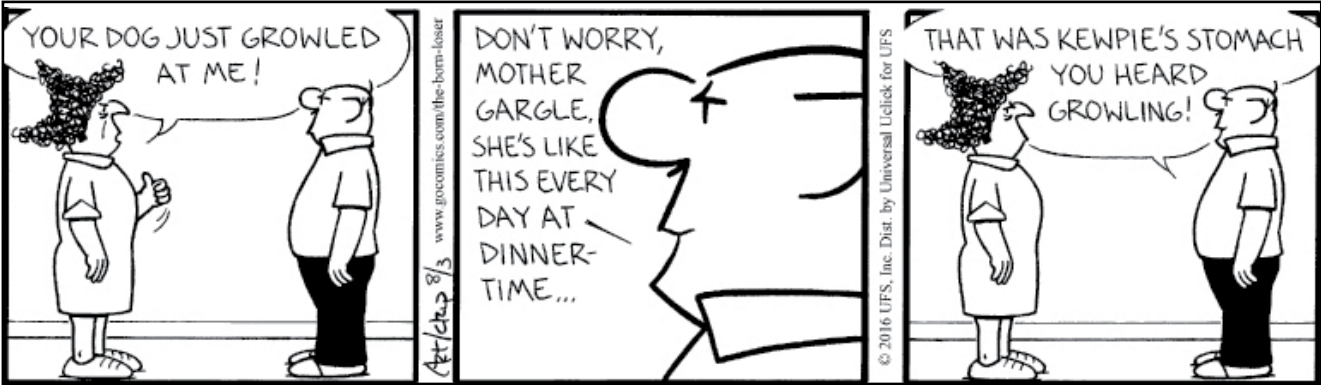
Your family means a great deal to you - and your elders are especially dear. When you wake up in the mood to get together with family members today, especially your elders, don't hesitate to postpone your plans.

Pisces

Feb.19-Mar. 20

The good news is you've got more time to yourself today, and you can stay up as late as you like without worrying about having no energy, a terrible headache, and seriously red eyes tomorrow.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

	8	6		5	2			
1	7		2		5			
	5		9	6				
8						7	9	
			5		3			
6	1							3
				7	9		4	
		1			5		6	7
	7		2		9	1		

Easy+

			6			4		8
8	6		7				2	
	4			3				1
1					2			
		7	9	1	5	8		
		9					1	
5				7			3	
	8				9		6	5
9	4			3				

Medium

9			8			7		
		4		7	6	5		
	3			4			1	
	9	8	1					
5								2
					3	8	6	
8			1				7	
		1	3	8		2		
	6			9			8	

Hard

	5	4	1			2		
	3							
					8			
6	1					9		
				4	3			
7			6	2				
8							3	7

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Connoisseur; 6- ___ about (roughly); 10- The ___ Love; 14- Musical drama; 15- Surrender; 16- "Dilbert" intern; 17- Fortuneteller's card; 18- Walked on; 19- "Cast Away" setting; 20- Audition; 22- Aeschylus trilogy; 24- CD follower; 26- House in D.C.; 27- Eyelash cosmetic; 31- Miss Piggy's query; 32- Great bargain; 33- Continue a subscription; 36- CPR specialist; 39- Equipment; 40- Lazybones; 41- Egyptian deity; 42- Your, to Yves; 43- Ludwig and Jannings; 44- Craze; 45- 1972 treaty subj.; 46- Large sea wave; 48- Seaport in N Spain; 51- Bro's sib; 52- Capital of Jamaica; 54- Semihard light yellow cheese; 59- Court plea, for short; 60- Israeli guns; 62- Bring about; 63- Roman road; 64- Bank (on); 65- Smith's block; 66- London art gallery; 67- Fulda tributary; 68- Flat contract;

DOWN: 1- Feminist Lucretia; 2- On ___ with (equal to); 3- Extremely; 4- Switch ending; 5- Chemical-free; 6- Halloween mo.; 7- Roman emperor; 8- Smells; 9- Savior; 10- Rum cocktail; 11- It's a good thing; 12- I swear!; 13- Home furnishings chain; 21- Craggy hill; 23- Reason to cancel school; 25- ___ Gras; 27- High-ranking NCO; 28- To ___ (exactly); 29- Mariners can sail on seven of these; 30- Train unit; 34- Building annex; 35- Bird homes; 36- Sicilian spouter; 37- Disfigure; 38- Bangkok tongue; 40- Not ripe; 41- Metal container used for frying; 43- Recedes; 44- "Rent," e.g.; 45- "Earth in the Balance" author; 47- Make a lap; 48- Flora and fauna; 49- Bay; 50- Seeped; 52- Work with needles; 53- World's longest river; 55- Narrow path for walkers, cars or ships; 56- Capital of Fiji; 57- Sister of Osiris; 58- Prefix with conference; 61- Isr. neighbor;



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Emergency calls 999

Fire department 28 572 222

PJ (Open line) 993

PJ (Picket) 28 557 775

PSP 28 573 333

Customs 28 559 944

S. J. Hospital 28 313 731

Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333

Commission Against

Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300

IACM 28 387 333

Tourism 28 333 000

Airport 59 888 88

Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283

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Telephone - Report 1000

Electricity - Report 28 339 922

Macau Daily Times 28 716 081



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Hellene Gardens, Low Floor
Coloane
1,663 sq ft / HKD 10.5M
HKD 6,313sq ft
Views Across the Gardens
Ref: 15055438

Manhattan
Taipa
3 Bedrooms Apartment
Perfect Family/Executive Home
HKD 23,500 / 1,626 sq ft
Ref: 15030488

Nam Ngon Garden Tower 3
Macau
1,840 sq ft / HKD 11.8M
HKD 6,413sq ft
Good Size Sitting Room
Ref: 14045398

Old Taipa
Vai Fat
1 Bedroom Apartment
Simply Furnished
HKD 13,000 / 650 sq ft
Ref: 15040499

Manhattan E Unit
Taipa
1,626sq ft / HKD 11.99M
HKD 7,380sq ft
Perfect Family or Executive Home
Ref: 14045401

Macau Nape Area
Macau
2 Bedroom Apartment
Overlooking Grand Lapa Resort
HKD 16,500 / 1,288 sq ft
Ref: 15030482



La Perla launches new collection at Sands Macao Fashion Week



LUXURY FASHION brand La Perla chose The Venetian Macao to launch its new SS18 collection at an evening gala for the opening of the inaugural Sands Macao Fashion Week.

The event, held in The Venetian Macao's Grand Colonnade and hotel lobby, was attended by some of the biggest names in fashion and entertainment.

The gala comprised a dinner party for around 200 VIP guests and key fashion commentators from around the world, as well as a showcase of the new Spring/Summer 2018 collection from La Perla, which features 70 ready-to-wear and haute couture looks.

Celebrity models leading the runway included Natasha Poly and Liu Wen, while the audience included renowned actress Fan Bing Bing and actor and model Hu Bing, both invited as special guests of La Perla.

Other guests included model You Tian Yi, actress Chen Shu, The Rap of China star BrAnT.B, Hong Kong celebrity couple actor and musician Palmerson Sinn Lap Man, singer and television presenter Paisley Wu Pui Wei, Asia's Next Top Model host Cindy Bishop and Hong Kong model and TV presenter Cara G. Sands Macao Fashion Week is being held between October 19 and 24. Many leading luxury and lifestyle fashion brands are showcasing their designs and products across Shoppes at Four Seasons, Shoppes at Venetian, Shoppes at Parisian and Shoppes at Cotai Central. The event also aims to support Macau's cultural and creative industries and provide a platform for local designers.

The six days of fashion events and promotions include the "Walk on Water" runway and boutique shows held over the canals of Shoppes at The Venetian. Meanwhile, the Shoppes at Parisian shows will feature current collections, fashion parades and other special events for the public to enjoy.



Cara G



Natasha Poly



Liu Wenn



MDT PHOTO



MDT PHOTO



Cindy Bishop



You Tan Yi

Marc Marquez wins Australian MotoGP

Phillip Island

MARC Marquez took a giant step toward retaining his MotoGP world title when he won the Australian Grand Prix yesterday, extending his championship lead to 33 points with just two rounds remaining.

Starting from pole position, the Spanish Honda rider took the race lead with seven laps remaining, then accelerated away from the field to win comfortably by 1.8 seconds from Italy's Valentino Rossi and his Yamaha teammate Maverick Vinales.

Marquez's only remaining rival for the world championship, Italian rider Andrea Dovizioso, finished 13th on his Ducati to see his title hopes all but evaporate.

Already a three-time MotoGP champion, Marquez, 24, has now won six races this season and can clinch his fourth world title with a top-two finish in either of the remaining two races.

"Amazing, amazing. I knew before the race that today was an important day," said Marquez, who crashed out while leading last year's Australian MotoGP.

"I was feeling really good and during the race I was just waiting, waiting, waiting and then in the last few laps I give all-in. I pushed really hard for three



Marquez celebrates on the podium after winning the Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix

or four laps. The fight was amazing."

Rossi timed his run to perfection to finish second after a dogged battle with Vinales and Johann Zarco for the other podium positions.

"I enjoyed the race very much," Rossi said. "This track is unbelievable and it was a great, great race. All the riders in front are very aggressive so you needed to be more stupid than them,

more aggressive. I wanted to try for the podium at the maximum and the end with second place I'm very happy."

Joan Mir was earlier crowned world champion in the Moto3 class when he won his rain-shortened race.

The race was stopped with seven laps remaining because of heavy rain with the 20-year-old Spaniard in the lead.

With his ninth victory of the

season, Mir has an unassailable 70-point lead over his nearest rival, Italy's Romano Fenat, with a maximum 50 points available from the last two races.

"It's unbelievable [...] I've dreamt about this for a lot of years," Mir said. "I've worked really hard for this and now to achieve it is amazing."

"I'm a world champion — it's incredible to say."

Mir's teammate Livio Loi fi-

nished second while Jorge Martin was third after starting from pole position.

Italy's Franco Morbidelli stretched his lead in the Moto2 championship to 29 points after finishing third in yesterday's Moto2 race.

Portugal's Miguel Oliveira grabbed his first win in the class, crossing the line ahead of South African rookie Brad Binder just as the weather started to turn foul.

The fight was amazing.

MARC MARQUEZ

"With three laps to go it started raining and I had a six seconds lead then I was too cautious and the gap was reduced," Oliveira said. "I stressed a little bit. It was the longest race of my life but I'm so happy for my team."

Switzerland's Thomas Luthi, who is second in the championship standings, lost slipped even further behind Morbidelli when he finished 10th.

"I wanted to get a podium to I was pushing really hard because I had to get this one," Morbidelli said. "It's great for the championship." AP

FOOTBALL

Scolari leads Guangzhou to 7th Chinese title in a row



Luiz Felipe Scolari

John Duerden

WORLD Cup winning coach Luiz Felipe Scolari led Guangzhou Evergrande to a seventh successive Chinese Super League title yesterday with a 5-1 win over Guizhou Zhi-cheng at Tianhe Stadium.

With closest challenger Shanghai SIPG losing 2-1 at home to Guangzhou R&F, Evergrande is now nine points clear at the top of the 16-team league with two games remaining.

Scolari, appointed in 2015, announced earlier this month that he will leave China when his contract expires on Nov. 30. The Brazilian has led Guangzhou to three domestic titles as well as the Asian Champions League in 2015. Scolari led Brazil to its last World Cup title in 2002.

Gao Lin opened the scoring after 15 minutes and Alan Junior extended Guangzhou's lead a short time later. Guizhou pul-

led a goal back before the break but Du Wei, Yu Hanchao and Muriqui completed the win to seal the title.

Shanghai, which spent more than USD100 million on Brazilian stars Hulk and Oscar in 2016, has seen its season fizzle out. Eliminated from the Asian Champions League semifinal in

midweek by Urawa Reds of Japan, a first domestic title will also now have to wait.

Guangzhou R&F took a 2-0 lead and while Hulk pulled a goal back to make amends for a first-half penalty miss, Shanghai, led by former Chelsea and Tottenham Hotspur coach Andre Villas-Boas, was unable

to get the win it needed to keep its faint title hopes alive.

At the other end of the standings, Fabio Capello led Jiangsu Suning to safety despite losing 3-1 at Changchun. The Italian was appointed by the struggling Nanjing team in June. AP

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opinion

Rear Window
Severo Portela



How to wear two or more hats

Regardless of status, or anything else, everybody belongs to a community, either large or as small as the Macau Special Administrative Region, has to play many roles, has to function in more than one capacity, has to wear several hats!

At the individual level, anybody has to adjust, and perform as best they can to this social reality, answering only to himself - unless they happen to have a split personality which is a source of great suffering. In a different sense, issues related to the concept of "conflict of interest", despite the enormous ethical weight, and its burden of conscience, are to be played and adjusted in the social and political arenas. According to historian Suetonius, Caesar divorced Pompeia claiming, "my wife should be as free of suspicion of a crime as she is from a crime itself". I raise this as a preliminary note.

The newly inaugurated Legislative Assembly elected chief executive's older brother, Chui Sai Cheong, to the powerful position of house vice-president by a smashing margin of 29 in 33 ballots. This suggests that almost all lawmakers were more than sure there are no legal issues or conflicts of interest that may cloud the appointment. Speaking to the media on the very day of the inauguration, Chui was open and candid enough to address the lack of any hypothetical conflict of interest by underlining the nature of Macau as just a small community - to the extent that different people have different positions or many positions. "This is very common, so I don't think it is a problem".

Later, Chui Sai Cheong himself raised for consideration the possibility that one of the hats he wears as a member of the Prosecutors Committee - ditto the independent ruling body responsible for administrative and disciplinary management of the Prosecutors Office - could represent a conflict of interest. The other hats to wear as director of Chui's family business, as president of Macau Management Association and much less as a member of the CPPCC are obviously out of consideration.

Indeed, there is no issue other than the perception or the aesthetics of a political landscape, designed with well-defined independence of powers, in which the fact that the VP of the Legislative is the brother of the Chief Executive is considered a non-issue. Perhaps it will be wise to give a thought on the inscription: perception is reality!

To make matters worse, or the perception obscure, the re-elected president of the Legislative Assembly, and political heavy-weight, Ho Iat Seng promised to further or tighten the scrutiny of the government... a duty that depends largely on the ruling, managing and tabling powers of the Executive Board: Ho Iat Seng is the president re-elect, Chui Sai Cheong the new vice-president, Kou Hoi In and Chan Hong are respectively the first and the second secretaries. Each of the four are indirectly elected legislators representing functional constituencies. This is real conflict of interest.

The Executive Board has no seat for a directly elected lawmaker, despite being not only the major block in the house (14 direct, 12 indirect, 7 appointed), but also the one which is supposed to grow as the political system gradually develops.

Furthermore, this exclusive Executive Board seems to feed on the existence of systemic paternalism that allows a rather opaque process of selection of the Legislative Assembly Committee on House Rules, Standing Committees, Monitoring Committees and, when needed, the Provisional Committees.

As we said above, Chui Sai Cheong's selection to the Executive Board is no less a question of conflicts of interest than the ones hanging over scholars, academics or professors. This is about perceptions!

THE BUZZ THE 13 SETS NEW OPENING DATE ON MARCH 31, 2018

The 13 Holdings has announced a revised opening date for its "ultra-luxury" Macau resort of "on or before" March 31, 2018. The new opening date follows the announcement of a rights issue of the company's shares, amounting to nearly HKD1 billion.

Inside Asian Gaming reported yesterday on a filing to the Hong Kong Stock Exchange where the company said it would use the proceeds from the rights issue to complete the project. The proceeds are expected to increase the share capital of the company by 50 percent.

The resort, developed by Hong Kong tycoon Ste-

phen Hung, has faced several setbacks in recent years concerning its financing and ability to compete in what is considered by some to be a poor regulatory environment.

Hung is marketing the resort as an "ultra-luxury" property, most notably through the purchase of a fleet of 30 custom Rolls-Royce Phantoms, representing the largest single order in Rolls-Royce history.

The property's name, The 13, is an abbreviation of the 17th century French King Louis XIII. It had originally been scheduled to open in the first quarter of 2017.

End of an era as Hong Kong stock trading floor set to close

Kelvin Chan, Hong Kong

HONG Kong's last remaining stock market floor traders are taking their final orders as the exchange prepares to shut its trading hall.

The bourse's operator, Hong Kong Exchanges & Clearing, says it will close the trading hall by the end of the month and turn the space into a showcase for the city's financial markets.

Yip Wing-keung, a trading manager at brokerage Christfund Securities, donned his red trading jacket for the last time Friday, his final day on the floor. He and the other few floor traders left have been moving out ahead of the closure.

The shutdown marks the end of an era for the stock market, which symbolized the city's ascent as an Asian finance hub. Activity on the floor, one of a few such venues left worldwide, dwindled as stock dealing became fully computerized.

"I feel sadness and regret," said Yip, who has been a floor trader since the hall was opened in 1986 after four previous exchanges were merged. "Hong Kong is one of the world's financial centers, but if we don't have the stock market trading hall, it will be a little sorrowful. This is my



Yip Wing-keung, a trading manager at local brokerage Christfund Securities

own individual reflection."

Yip said the floor traders resisted the closure. They sent a protest letter to the government but it was in vain.

"We wrote it but were overruled," he said. "We can't stop the times from changing."

Hong Kong's stock exchange, Asia's third biggest by volume, follows other global peers like Tokyo, Singapore and London that have eliminated their trading floors.

In the U.S., floor traders at the New York Stock Exchange still provide the backdrop for financial TV news reports and bell-ringing ceremonies. But Chicago and New York commodity futures trading pits, where traders used old-fashioned "open outcry" techniques, have shut in recent years as volume fell to 1 percent of the total.

Hong Kong Exchanges stopped updating stats for floor trading in 2014, when it accounted for less than 1 percent of monthly turnover.

In the 1980s and 1990s the hall housed more than 900 trading desks. The exchange's most recent count showed only 62 dealing desks were leased, with about 30 traders showing up on an average day. On a visit to the hall last week, only about seven traders could be seen.

Back in its heyday, floor trading was computer-assisted but dealers still needed to talk to each other to complete transactions, either by phone or in person, depending on how far away they sat from each other, Yip said.

"If they were too far you had to use the internal phone line, but if you couldn't get through, you had to run over to them," he said. "So you saw lots of people running back and forth."

These days, Yip just punches orders into his computer. "Now it's more comfortable" but relationships with other traders are not as good as they used to be, said Yip. AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT



The front block and gardens of the Government Headquarters were opened to the public over the weekend from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Located on Avenida da Praia Grande, the palace was renovated after the establishment of the MSAR and has been opened to public for two consecutive days every year since 2001.

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	85-115 Moderate	
High Density Residential Area	75-105 Moderate	
Ambient	85-115 Moderate	

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

JAPAN A powerful typhoon was heading toward Japan's main islands early today, already bringing heavy rain to western Japan and slightly injuring at least five people.

AUSTRALIA An Australian state took a step toward allowing voluntary euthanasia on Friday, 20 years after the country repealed the world's first mercy killing law.



MYANMAR Hundreds of hard-line Buddhists protested yesterday to urge Myanmar's government not to repatriate the nearly 600,000 minority Rohingya Muslims who have fled to Bangladesh since late August to escape violence in Myanmar's Rakhine state.

ITALY Voters in the wealthy northern Italian regions of Lombardy and Veneto were deciding yesterday if they want to seek greater autonomy from Rome, riding a tide of self-determination that is sweeping global politics.



SPAIN announced an unprecedented plan Saturday to sack Catalonia's separatist leaders, install its own people in their place and call a new local election, using previously untapped constitutional powers to take control of the prosperous region that is threatening to secede.

ARGENTINA Legislative elections in Argentina are giving President Mauricio Macri a chance to win his first friendly congress, while former President Cristina Fernandez is seeking to make a comeback. Polls indicate that Macri's center-right faction has a chance to win a majority for the first time since he took office in 2015.